

Message Text

SECRET

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61

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CCO-00 COME-00 SS-20 FCC-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMNAVTELCOM

S E C R E T STATE 228505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR/IO/UK

SUBJECT: INTELSAT TERMINAL AT DIEGO GARCIA

REF: LONDON 13317 (NOTAL)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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1. AFTER A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC FACTORS INVOLVED,
THE LENGTH OF DELAY PRIOR TO ACTIVATION, AND THE POTENTIAL

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, WE HAVE DECIDED AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO ACTIVATE AN INTELSAT LINK FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO CINCPAC FOR THE TIME BEING. ACCORDINGLY, THE US NAVY HAS TERMINATED ITS COMSAT LEASE AND IS TAKING STEPS TO RETURN THE GROUND TERMINAL TO THE US.

2. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CONVEY TO THE FCO OUR APPRECIATION FOR ITS ASSISTANCE AND EFFORTS ON OUR BEHALF, AND EXTEND OUR REGRETS FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS EPISODE MAY HAVE CAUSED. YOU MAY WISH TO ADVISE THE FCO THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF SATISFYING OUR NEED FOR VOICE COMMUNICATIONS AND THAT WE WILL KEEP HMG FULLY INFORMED PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTING ANY SOLUTIONS INVOLVING CHANGES TO THE FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1972 AGREEMENT AND 1973

UPGRADE UNDERSTANDING. FYI. AMONG PROPOSALS BEING GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS EXPEDITING THE INSTALLATION OF A GROUND TERMINAL TO USE EXISTING MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES. WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU FURTHER IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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NNN

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